

without any additional cost to taxpayers. Acting-Commissioner Banks testified before our Ways and Means Committee in support of our earlier version of the legislation, and the airline industry supports it as well.

I appreciate how quickly the House has recognized the merits of these provisions, as well as the other important elements of the bill to reduce tariffs on various products, and allowed us to bring it to the floor today. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this critical bill.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support for H.R. 4856, the "Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Correction Act of 1998" which will strengthen our trade and economic relationship with Mongolia through the extension of normal trading relations with that emerging democracy in central Asia.

Mongolia has undertaken significant market-based economic reforms, including the reduction of government subsidies, the elimination of most price controls and the closing of insolvent banks. In many respects, this country's economic track record is a model for many other countries in the region and in Asia as a whole.

I would also like to express my thanks to the author of this legislation, Chairman Archer, for this willingness to include six duty suspension requests in this legislation that will provide small but important benefits for a leading company in my district, the Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4856.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) at 4 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF SECOND SESSION SINE DIE

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that House Resolu-

tion 594, as modified by striking "November 18, 1998," in section 2 and inserting "November 13, 1998," be considered as adopted.

The text of House Resolution 594 is as follows:

H. RES. 594

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House a joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their designees; and (2) one motion to commit.

SEC. 2. A resolution providing that any organizational caucus or conference in the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Sixth Congress may begin on or after November 18, 1998, is hereby adopted.

SEC. 3. A resolution providing for the printing of a revised edition of the Rules and Manual of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Sixth Congress as a House document, and for the printing and binding of three thousand additional copies for the use of the House, of which nine hundred copies shall be bound in leather with thumb index and delivered as may be directed by the Parliamentarian of the House, is hereby adopted.

SEC. 4. A resolution providing that a committee of two Members of the House be appointed to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that the House of Representatives has completed its business of the session and is ready to adjourn, unless the President has some other communication to make to them, is hereby adopted.

SEC. 5. The Speaker, the Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader may accept resignations and make appointments to commissions, boards, and committees following the adjournment of the second session sine die as authorized by law or by the House.

SEC. 6. The chairman and ranking minority member of each standing committee and subcommittee may extend their remarks in the Congressional Record and include a summary of the work of their committee or subcommittee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resolution is adopted and amended.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTING DAY FOR CONVENING OF FIRST SESSION OF ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I offer a joint resolution (H. J. Res. 138) appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The text of House Joint Resolution 138 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 138

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first regular session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress shall begin at noon on Wednesday, January 6, 1999.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4328, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-826) on the resolution (H. Res. 605) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4328) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SETTING DATES FOR ORGANIZATIONAL CAUCUS OR CONFERENCE FOR ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 594, House Resolution 606 is adopted.

The text of House Resolution 606 is as follows:

H. RES. 606

Resolved, That any organizational caucus or conference in the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Sixth Congress may begin on or after November 13, 1998.

SEC. 2. As used in this resolution, the term "organizational caucus or conference" means a party caucus or conference authorized to be called under section 202(a) of House Resolution 988, Ninety-third Congress, agreed to on October 8, 1974, and enacted into permanent law by chapter III of title I of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1975 (2 U.S.C. 29a(a)).

AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF REVISED EDITION OF RULES AND MANUAL OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 594, House Resolution 607 is adopted.

The text of House Resolution 607 is as follows:

H. RES. 607

Resolved, That a revised edition of the Rules and Manual of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Sixth Congress be printed as a House document, and that three thousand additional copies shall be printed and bound for the use of the House of Representatives, of which nine hundred copies shall be bound in leather with thumb index and delivered as may be directed by the Parliamentarian of the House.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF TWO MEMBERS TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT THAT THE TWO HOUSES HAVE COMPLETED THEIR BUSINESS OF THE SESSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 594, House Resolution 608 is adopted.

The text of House Resolution 608 is as follows:

H. RES. 608

Resolved, That a committee of two Members of the House be appointed to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that the House of Representatives has completed its business of the session and is ready to adjourn, unless the President has some other communication to make to them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 594, the Chair appoints the following Members of the House to the committee to notify the President:

The gentleman from Texas, Mr. ARMEY.

The gentleman from Missouri, Mr. GEPHARDT.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4328, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 605 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 605

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4328) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) is recognized for one hour.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield one-half my time to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), my great friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of the resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, passage of this rule will enable us to complete the outstanding work for the 105th Congress and adjourn for the remainder of the year. This rule is traditional for conference reports. It waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. Further, it provides for the conference report to be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report to accompany H.R. 4328, the Transpor-

tation and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill for Fiscal Year 1999, is serving as the vehicle for an omnibus appropriations package for fiscal year 1999. That is the bill that we have before us.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report before the House contains the following general appropriation bills for fiscal year 1999: Transportation; Agriculture; Labor-HHS and Education; Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary; Foreign Operations; District of Columbia; Treasury-Postal Service; and the Interior appropriations bills.

Mr. Speaker, all of the spending bills in this general appropriation bill are within the discretionary spending caps and are fully paid for. This conference report also contains a number of provisions making supplemental appropriations.

A significant portion of the package, and I think it is important for Members to note, is an \$8.4 billion Department of Defense component including funds for missile defense and additional funds for military readiness, so badly needed. This funding is critical to protect the lives of our soldiers and our military personnel who serve overseas in uniform.

I have warned my colleagues many times that we are returning to the very hollow force of the 1970's in our national defense posture. There was a time, that I often recall, when we had hostages being held in a place called Iran. And when we attempted to rescue those hostages being held, we had to cannibalize 14 helicopter gunships just to get 8 that would work, and 3 of those failed, and so did the rescue operation. That was the condition of our military back in the late seventies.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's Armed Forces are facing the same kind of critical shortages in a number of areas right now.

In terms of personnel, we have lost military personnel. We have commissioned officers and noncommissioned officers who are choosing not to stay in the military. Many of them are being furloughed because of lack of funds. There are shortages of equipment and spare parts, and even ammunition.

Mr. Speaker, all of these indicators of a declining readiness rate are not academic statistics. All of these things contribute to the ability of our Armed Forces to respond rapidly and effectively to a threat from overseas in the manner in which we responded to Saddam Hussein in 1990 and 1991, and today we cannot do that. We do not have the military capability to mount that kind of an operation now. Also these items which are in short supply lead to a greater propensity for training accidents or aircraft crashes, and you see it almost every week now in some part of the world.

Mr. Speaker, the lives of our young men and women who serve in the military are constantly at risk from foreign threats. We should not compound that risk by leaving them in the field with aging or broken or outdated equipment.

Mr. Speaker, the world is a dangerous place, and there are nations and forces who are hostile to the United States and American interests all over this globe. The House should lend its support to our men and women in uniform around the globe who put their lives on the line for the national interests of this country by voting for this package today. I intend to vote for it myself, even though I am a fiscal conservative and do not share all of the purposes of everything in this massive bill.

Mr. Speaker, the United States lives under the constant threat of attack from ballistic missiles launched from China or North Korea or other renegade regimes around this world. It is inconceivable to me that we have not developed a system that would stop incoming ballistic missiles from landing on American cities. Several regimes have a startling missile capability and, when coupled with biological and chemical warheads, these regimes and their devices pose an incredible threat not only to American servicemen serving overseas, but also a direct threat right here to the United States of America.

We all know that the People's Republic of China, which is a hostile nation to this country by their own words, have no less than 13 intercontinental ballistic missiles aimed at American cities right today, yet we are not equipped to do anything about that.

Mr. Speaker, if investing \$1 billion for missile defense in this package is not an emergency, I do not know what an emergency is. This funding is absolutely critical.

Mr. Speaker, the conference agreement also contains funds to combat terrorism, including at our American embassies overseas. For those who have traveled there, you know that many of our embassy personnel are in grave danger right today, and we saw that happen just in the last several months. The Congress must support efforts to counter international terror and the cowards who would employ such methods around the world.

Mr. Speaker, this spending agreement also includes important funding for intelligence activities which are critical so that we can know in advance when terrorists are planning to attack America's infrastructure, such as the World Trade Center, bridges, tunnels or American embassies overseas.

Mr. Speaker, this package also contains funding to address the Year 2000 computer problem, or Y2K, a significant portion of which is defense-related. We must ensure that our defense computers are technically capable to meet the challenges of the new century.

□ 1640

Mr. Speaker, this omnibus appropriation package contains something even more important than all the things I have just mentioned, and that is crucial funds for the anti-drug efforts as